

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 12929 091932Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HEW-06 OES-07 AGRE-00 TRSE-00

EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 (ISO) W

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P R 091510Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6424

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

UNCLAS ROME 12929

DEPT. PASS FDA, NIH, NATIONAL FISHERIES INSTITUTE AND NATIONAL
MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (USDOC)

COPENHAGENFOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, IT

SUBJECT: IMPORTED TOXIC FISH INTO ITALY

REF.: A) STATE 186085; B) ROME 10932 AND C) ROME 12110

1. QUESTIONS A B AND C RAISED IN PARA 2, REF A) WERE ANSWERED IN
REF C).

2. FURTHER TALKS WITH PROF. CARPI OF INSTITUTE OF HEALTH CONFIRM
THAT THE POISON IS TETRADOTOXINE CONTAINED INFISH OF THEKTE-
TRAODONTIDAE FAMILY WHICH WERE IMPROPERLY INCLUDED IN THE SHIPMENT
OF FROZEN FISH. THE INSTITUTE OF HEALTH ANALYZED FOUR SAMPLES
OF FISH AND FOUND IN THREE CASES 3000 MICROGRAMS OF TETRADOTOXINE
PER 100 GRAMS AND IN ONE CASE 50 MICROGRAMS OF TETRADOTOXINE
PER 100 GRAMS. THE ALLOWABLE TOLERANCE OF THIS TOXIN IN ITALY IS
40 MICROGRAMS PER 100 GRAMS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION D (REF A) PROF. CARPI SAID THE ANA-
LYTICAL METHOD USED TO DETERMINE THE QUANTITY OF TETRADOTOXINE
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CONTAINED IN THE SAMPLES WAS THE SAME AS THAT EMPLOYED TO DETERMINE
THE AUANTITY OF SAXITOXINE CONTAINED IN SHELLFISH AND IS BASED
ON US METHODOLOGY AND STANDARDS. RESULTS OF AUTOPSIES PERFORMED
ON PERSONS WHO DIED AFTER INGESTING FISH IS UNDER INVESTIGATION
BY THE MAGISTRATE AND RESULTS HVE NOT YET BEEN MADE KNOWN.

4. THE INSTITUTE OF HEALTH IS PREPARING A PAPER ON THE ISSUE

OF POISONOUS FISH IN COOPERATION WITH SEVERAL OTHER PROVINCIAL
AND FIELD LABORATORIES WHICH MADE PARALLEL INVESTIGATIONS ON FISH
SAMPLES. PAPER IS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED AT THE BEGINNING

OF NOVEMBER.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PLEASE ENSURE REF C DISTRIBUTED
TO ALL ADDRESSEES.HOLMES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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TAGS: TBIO, IT
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